

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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AMEMBASSY JIDDA

S E C R E T AMMAN 4472

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, EG, JO, SA, US, XF
SUBJECT: VISIT BY EGYPTIAN VICE PRESIDENT MUBARAK

SUMMARY: JORDANIANS TOLD EGYPTIAN VICE PRESIDENT MUBARAK JORDAN MAINTAINED CURRENT POSITION THAT IT NEEDS ASSURANCE THAY ANY WEST BANK NEGOTIAOIONS WILL LEAD SOMEWHERE BEFORE JORDAN ITSELF CAN ENTER. U.S. SUPPORT AND ASSURANCE IS ESSENTIAL AND A "NET" OF ARAB SUPPORT ALSO REQUIRED TO INDUCE KING TO CONSIDER ENTERING NEGOTIATIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR ABDULLATIF GAVE ME A BRIEF FILL-IN MAY 16 ON VICE PRESIDENT MUBARAK'S MAY 15 - 16 VISIT TO JORDAN.

2. ON MIDEAST NEGOTATIONS, ABDULLATIF SAID JORDANIANS EMPHASIZED OVER AND OVER THAT THEY WANT TO KNOW WHAT LIES "AT END OF THE TUNNEL" ON WEST BANK BEFORE THEY "ENTER THE TUNNEL." THIS PARTICULARLY TRUE REGARDING QUESTION OF ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL. JORDANIANS ALSO MENTIONED THE OTHER CONDITIONS, NAMELY PALESTINIAN SELF-DETERMINATION AND PARTICIPATION

OF PALESTINIANS, ALONG WITH JORDAN, IN ANY NEGOTIATIONS THAT MIGHT OCCUR.

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3. IN REPLY TO MY QUESTION, ABDULLATIF SAID LITTLE WAS DISCUSSED REGARDING CONCRETE STEPS ON WEST BANK/GAZA ISSUE. WHEN I ASKED ABOUT PRESIDENT SADAT'S RECENT NEWSPAPER INTERVIEW PROPOSING RETURN OF WEST BANK TO JORDAN AND GAZA TO EGYPT, ABDULLATIF SAID THIS STATEMENT APPLIED STRICTLY TO MEANS OF SECURING AN ISRAELI

WITHDRAWAL FROM THOSE AREAS BUT SHOULD NOT BE READ TO IMPLY ANTHING MORE.

4. WITHOUT BEING SPECIFIC, ABDULLATIF SAID JORDANIANS EXPRESSED THEIR DESIRE FOR SUPPORT AND ASSURANCE FROM UNITED STATE BEFORE THEY CAN ENTER NEGOTIATIONS. HE OFFERED PERSONAL OPINION THAT THE U.S. HAS THE DECISIV ROLE IN BRINGING ABOUT JORDANIAN INVOLVEMENT AT APPROPRIATE TIME. HE SAID JORDANIANS ALSO WANT "AN ARAB NET" OF SUPPORT AROUND THEM, OF AT LEAST SOME OF THE MAJOR ARAB PARTIES.

5. ACCORDING TO ABDULLATIF, SAUDIS HAD EXPRESSED TO MUBARAK ON HIS MAY 14 VISIT A WILLINGNESS TO "CONFORT" KING HUSSEIN WITH REGARD TO HIS SITUATION. SPEAKING VERY CONFIDENTIALLY, ABDULLATIF SAID MUBARAK WAS MAKING UNANNOUNCED STOP IN SAUDIA ARABIA ON HIS WAY BACK TO EGYPT TO FILL SUADIS IN ON HIS MEETING WITH KING HUSSEIN, AND JUST PRIOR TO KING HUSSEIN'S VISIT THERE LATER THIS WEEK.

6. COMMENT: JORDANIAN POSITION ON NEGOTIATIONS AS DESCRIBED BY EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR SEEMS CONSISTENT WITH THEIR POSITION AS DESCRIBED TO US. WE EXPECT HOWEVER TO GET A MORE COMPLETE FILL-IN FROM THE JORDANIANS SINCE EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR MAY NOT HAVE PARTICIPATED FULLY IN ALL DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN MUBARAK AND THE KING.

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ALSO NOTEWORTHY THAT AMBASSADOR DID NOT MENTION CONTENTS OF LETTER FROM SADAT TO KING HUSSEIN.
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